Delay in signing of memorandum of understanding by ONGC

*393. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission has failed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Government for the year 1991-92;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that delay in signing the MOU has defeated its purpose as considerable part of the current financial year has lapsed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and ONGC is yet to be signed as it is still under finalisation. The functioning of the ONGC has not been affected on this account.

Survey of HTV infection in Manipur

*394. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report of survey of HIV infection in Manipur published in the Health for Millions, Vol. XVII, No. 4, August, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof alongwith the number of people surveyed and the number of people found seropositive?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes Sir. Government is aware about the report published in "Health for Millions"—August, 1991.

(b) The first case of HIV (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus which transmits AIDS) infection was detected in February, 1990. As of November, 1991, 7,607 persons practising "at risk" behaviours were screened and 1,348 were found to have HIV infection. Results of surveillance work carried out in Manipur indicate that the major mode of transmission is through intra venous drug use.

Pilferage of coal from the Railway wagons

*395. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of pilferage of coal from the Railway Wagons have been growing in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) whether incidents of looting of coal from Railway Wagons by miscreants after halting the trains at convenient locations in connivence with GRP and Railway employees as well as transportation of pilfered coal by various Mail and Passenger trains passing through this Division have also been received; if so, teh details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to stop such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Cases of women, children and man suspected to be engaged in pilfering coal from various collieries situated in Asansol Division and carrying the pilferage ETAOI NSHRDLU MMM the pilfered coal by passenger trains have come to notice.

(c) Frequent raids are conducted by RPF. Persons who are involved in carrying coal are arrested by RPF and efforts are made to stop this menace with the assistance of GRP and local police.

Ayurvedic Tonic

*396. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several manufacturers are marketing unscientific preparations in the name of Ayurvedic Tonics to escape scrutiny; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute a high-powered committee comprising of medical experts and voluntary sectors to evolve a rational policy on the manufacture and marketing of ayurvedic products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government would undertake such a survey and, in the light of the findings of the survey, review the legal provisions for regulating the manufacture and marketing of ayurvedic medicines.

Mosquito nets impregnated with pesticide

@*397. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mosquito nets impregnated with pesticide have been developed as reported in the Hindustan Times of 21st October, 1991;

(b) if so, whether it may conteminate the air; and

(c) whether it would be safe for children who may touch or lick the nets unknowingly?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Mosquito bednets impregnated with insecticides have been developed. The insecticides used to impregnate these nets do not contaminate the air and pose no health hazard.

Doctors with foreign Degrees

*398. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal from the Medical Council of India for conducting an entrance examination for all foreign Degree holding Doctors of medicine to practice in India;

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon; and

(c) the number of Medical Doctors in India holding Degrees from foreign Universities which are not yet recognised by the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) A Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, as reported by Joint Committee of Parliament, contains a provision for conducting a screening test for foreign degree holders.

(c) No such information is available with the Medical Council of India.

Scheme of having only gauge in the country

*399. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHANAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the scheme of Railway line with only one gauge in the entire country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF (a) A phased system change from MG to BG is being contemplated.

(b) Progress of conversion will depend on the availability of resources.

Utilization of land lying along railway lines

*400. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area of land with the Indian Railways lying on both sides of railway lines;

@Previously Starred Question 317 transferred from the 12th December, 1991.